

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

April 26, 2016 | Exclusive discount for the 2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference!

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [General Updates](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences and Events](#)



Exclusive Discount

Save on National Farm to Cafeteria Conference!

The [8th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) is coming to Madison, Wis., on June 2-4, 2016, and you are invited. This is a premier gathering of people working to change the culture of food and agricultural literacy across America. Come learn about [building resilient farm to school programs](#) for all size districts, [local and sustainable procurement](#), how [aquaponic systems are the biggest trend in school food production and education](#), and [more!](#)

[Click here for a \\$50 registration discount.](#)

This **SPECIAL RATE** is available to Wisconsin Farm to School partners (aka YOU!) who register between **April 26th and May 3rd**. Act now and join us in Madison!

Offer valid on new registrations only.

Announcing the Apple Crunch Garden Contest Winners!

Thank you to all the schools that participated in the [McKay's](#) Apple Crunch Contest during the [2015 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch](#). Congrats to the Crunch winners!

Apple Crunch Contest WINNERS:

1st Place: School for AGricultural & Environmental Studies (SAGES)

2nd Place: Augusta School District

3rd Place: St. Joseph Parish School

Do you want to participate in the 2016 McKay's Apple Crunch Contest? **Get ready to participate in the 2016 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch on October 13, 2016.** Registration details coming soon!

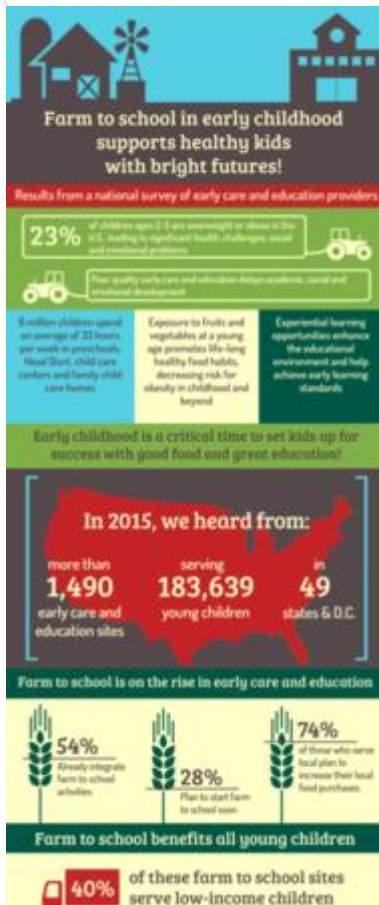


General Updates



[Wisconsin School Garden Network!](#)

The Wisconsin School Garden Initiative (WSGI) has officially blossomed into the Wisconsin School Garden (WSGN)! Check out the April newsletter below for more details, as well as a school garden "resource roundup" and a story about an amazing school garden program in Brodhead, Wisconsin!



Survey Results: Farm to School in Early Care and Education Builds Healthy Kids with Bright Futures

In 2015, the National Farm to School Network surveyed early care and education providers across the country. Nearly 1,500 providers serving 183,369 young children in 49 states and Washington, D.C., responded and shared fascinating insight into the important work that they are doing to connect young children to healthy, local foods and food related educational opportunities. The results show that farm to school in early care and education is on the rise across the country. 54% of respondents are already doing farm to school activities and another 28% plan to start in the near future. A [new infographic](#) and [factsheet](#) are available with more survey results. To see the results and learn how the National Farm to School Network is working to expand farm to school in early care and education, visit farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood.

Webinars, Conferences and Events

School Garden Workshops

Community GroundWorks is excited to offer two half-days workshops and one weeklong course for educators, community youth leaders, and parents interested in garden-based education. Here is a brief summary, with more details below. Please help us spread the word by passing along this email to colleagues and friends! [More info at this link](#)

- [Gardening with Kids 101](#): Half-day family friendly workshop at the Goodman Youth Farm - Saturday, May 7, 8:00am-12:00pm



- [Beekeeping with Youth](#): Half-day family friendly workshop at the Goodman Youth Farm - Tuesday, July 19, 8:00am-12:00pm
- [Growing Minds](#): Week-long garden-based learning course for K-12 teachers and community educators. July 25-July 29, 8:00am-12:00pm

Webinar: Food Systems Change through Procurement Policy

Wednesday, April 27th, 2:00-3:30 pm ET

Join FoodPolicyNetworks.org and Chesapeake Foodshed Network for an overview of the Center for a Livable Future's recent report, *Instituting Change*, which examines the benefits and barriers to increased institutional procurement of regionally and sustainably produced food. Hear findings from a recent analysis of the economic potential for regional food procurement among institutions in the Chesapeake region. Finally, learn about the Center for Good Food Purchasing and implementation of the Center's Good Food Purchasing Policy in Chicago and the Twin Cities. [Register here.](#)

Webinar: How to Evaluate Economic Benefits of Local Food Systems

Thursday, April 28, 3pm ET

Local and regional food systems are helping revitalize rural and urban communities across the country. The authors of a new USDA guide to evaluate the economic impacts of investing in farmers markets, community supported agriculture (CSA), food hubs, and other local food systems will discuss the toolkit during a free webinar. [The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices](#), developed by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in cooperation with Colorado State University (CSU), uses real-world projects, experiences, and applied research to help community leaders, planners, economic development specialists, public agencies, and private businesses or foundations evaluate the economic benefits of local and regional food systems. [Register here.](#)

Webinar: How to Successfully Implement Salad Bars in Your School Cafeteria

Thursday, April 28, 3pm ET

School salad bars are one of the easiest ways to meet the fruit and vegetable standards for school lunch, increase participation in the lunch program, reduce plate waste and increase student's fruit and vegetable consumption. The Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools initiative has donated salad bars to more than 4,500 schools nationwide and has resources to help schools successfully implement salad bars. Hear from school food service directors about

their experience with salad bars and how you can apply for salad bars from LMSB2S.
[Register here.](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact wifarmtoschool@wisconsin.gov
